GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:138
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
LANDING RIGHTS TO FOREIGN AIRLINES
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign airlines have requested for landing rights in India;

(b) if so, whether this will have a direct impact on the number of foreign tourists visiting India;

(c) whether the Tourism Ministry has taken up this issue with the Civil Aviation Ministry;

(d) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the foreign airlines that have applied for landing rights in India?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)
(a): Yes Sir.

(b): Most of international traffic to/from India is ethnic in nature. No major request is pending for landing rights from countries from which foreign tourists visit India. The requests of foreign airlines for landing rights is basically to cater to the traffic of Indians and hence such requests do not significantly affect the number of foreign tourists visiting India.

(c): Yes Sir.

(d)and (e):- In consultation with Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of External Affairs, bilateral air services talks have been held with Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Turkey, Italy, Gulf air Owner States (UAE, Oman, Bahrain) and Thailand since January, 2003 and additional capacity was granted to their designated airlines for operations to India. Apart from this, a limited open sky policy was also declared during the last winter season to clear the peak season rush. This policy was extended up to end June, 2003 in respect of European carriers.

(f): Major airlines who have applied for landing rights are Emirates, Oman Air, Qatar Airways, Kuwait Airways, Britishairways, Sri Lankan Airlines etc.